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ACTION #

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PAGE 01

TOR: 052245Z MAY 77

IN 273437

2-17
CARA 33023

S E C R E T 052222Z MAY 77 STAFF

CITE (CARACAS) 33023

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR.

NI ACT DIRECTOR

WNINTEL RYBAT

REF: DIRECTOR 030127 *

1. BY TIME REF RECEIVED (1800 HOURS) AMBASSADOR HAD GONE HOME FOR THE DAY. (COS)²⁷ EARLIER HAD DISCUSSED LOCAL SUMMARY OF FLEETWOOD ARTICLE IN "ULTIMAS NOTICIAS". OBVIOUSLY UNTIL FULL TEXT IN VENEZUELAN HANDS AND IF AND WHEN PRESIDENT PEREZ FOCUSES ON THIS MATTER, VENEZUELAN REACTION WILL BE UNKNOWN. MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM ASKED AMBASSADOR ABOUT CIRCULATION AND IMPORTANCE OF "NEW TIMES" MAGAZINE- THERE BEING SOME CONFUSION IN VENEZUELAN MIND THAT THIS PART OF NEW YORK "TIMES" NEWSPAPER- AND SEEMED REASSURED BY AMBASSADOR'S REPLY DOWNPLAYING SIGNIFICANCE OF "NEW TIMES". AMBASSADOR AT THIS POINT SEES THREAT ONLY IN CAP'S TENDENCY TO ATTRIBUTE ALL UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN U.S. PRESS TO ALLEGED BKHHERALD EFFORTS TO DESTABILIZE GOV. IN THIS CASE CAP ALREADY KNOWS EMBASSY

S E C R E T

3/12/77

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				IN 273437	
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				(CARA) 33023	
				TOR: 052245Z MAY 77	

HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH FLEETWOOD AND THUS HAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO LEAD HIM TO ASSUME THE WORST. NONETHELESS, AMBASSADOR IS HOPEFUL THAT CAP WILL HAVE MANY OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW AND THAT THPS ONE WILL PROVE A NON-STARTER.

2, WILL SHOW TEXT OF REF TO AMBASSADOR FIRST THING 6 MAY AND ADVISE OF ANY FURTHER COMMENTS. AS STATED, READING ON VENEZUELAN REACTION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. IF CAP BLOWS, (OTHER THAN ²⁴ AND COS AND OFFICER'S TENURE HERE, STATION OPS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECIALLY AFFECTED. (REST OF OUR EFFORT IS UNILATERAL, ²⁴ WE PREPARED FOR THIS EVENTUALITY ONCE BEFORE, WE HAVE NOT RELAXED SINCE, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE WOULD BE BADLY HURT.

3. NO FILE. E2 IMPDET.

*Ref. attached.

S E C R E T

3/17